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60-9693/a  
DEC 1960

Major General John M. Williams  
Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear John:

I have your memorandum of 15 December proposing that the annual revision of DCID 1/3, Priority National Intelligence Objectives, be postponed for about six months, so as to conform to any revision of basic national security policy made by the new administration.

I feel quite strongly that the PNIO's should be directly related to the intelligence required for the formulation as well as the execution of national security policy. The present DCID is dated 24 May 1960, but the basic text was last revised in December 1959 and is now seriously out of date, particularly in relation to subsequent developments in Africa and Latin America. I consider it inexpedient to delay the revisions now proposed and desirable to provide the new administration, at the outset, with our up-to-date judgment regarding intelligence priorities. Any revision of national security policy is likely to be a matter of emphasis rather than of fundamentals. In any case, when a revision has been formulated, we will then be in a position to determine whether a further revision of the PNIO's is required.

I am aware that a proposal to defer consideration was made by your representative at the 15 December meeting of the Board of National Estimates and USIB representatives on the presently proposed revision of the DCID. I am informed that for the reasons which I

Army review(s)  
completed.

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have given above, it was the unanimous view of those present (your representative excepted) that the present revision was urgently needed and should not be deferred. In this view I concur.

I would be happy to have you raise your point at the next meeting of the USIB for general discussion.

Sincerely,

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Allen W. Dulles  
Director

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Drafted: ONE:  21 Dec 60 *sn*

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HEADQUARTERS  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Executive Registry  
60-9693

DEC 15 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. ALLEN DULLES, DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Annual Review of Priority National Intelligence Objectives,  
24 May 1960 (U)

1. References:

- a. DCID 1/3, Priority National Intelligence Objectives,  
24 May 1960.
- b. Memorandum, Central Intelligence Agency, same subject,  
dated 22 November 1960.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency Memorandum, referred to above, proposes a draft revision of the Priority National Intelligence Objectives. This appears to me to be an inappropriate time for our annual revision. I base this conclusion largely on the fact that the incoming administration will, most likely, develop some changes in the national policies and programs in several areas. In fact, I believe that a review of the Basic National Security Policy can be expected to be undertaken soon after the new administration is installed. In view of this, I believe the annual review of the PNIOs, now scheduled to begin, should be postponed until the national policies and programs become firm. This relatively short delay will enable us to insure that our intelligence objectives adequately support new national policies and programs, and may save further early revision.

3. Postponement of the annual review will serve also to permit publication of the DCID 1/3 closer to the beginning of the new fiscal year, and thus bring the effective period more into line with other budgeting and programming procedures in effect.

4. During the succeeding several months before the review is accomplished, the current objectives will serve the purpose of providing priority guidance to our intelligence efforts. Where events indicate that ad hoc treatment of "hot" areas or situations is required, such matters could be handled readily by the USIB in its weekly meetings.

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DEC 15 1960

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SUBJECT: Annual Review of Priority National Intelligence Objectives,  
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5. In view of the foregoing, I would like to recommend that the annual review of the Priority National Intelligence Objectives, now scheduled at this time, be postponed until such time as the national policies and programs are affirmed and hereafter be accomplished on or about 1 April.

*John M. Willems*

JOHN M. WILLEMS  
Major General, GS  
ACofS for Intelligence

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UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	INITIALS	DATE
1	DD/I	RAGB	12/20/60
2	AD/NE		STAT
3	(Williams made no reference to this in to-day's USIA meeting)		
5			
6	DCI		

ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIGNATURE

Remarks:

For preparation of a reply for the Director's signature.

JSE

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FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
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